



# Bitterroot National Forest

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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Revalle County Commissioners**

## Forest Service Announces Plans for Spring Noxious Weed Treatment

HAMILTON, MT. APRIL 13, 2007. The Bitterroot National Forest will be treating invasive weeds in the Sula Peak and Shirley Mountain / Jakes Draw areas on the Sula Ranger District over the next several weeks. Aerial herbicide spraying is scheduled to occur on up to 1,000 acres in these two areas sometime between April 18 and May 10, depending on weather conditions.

The weed treatments are designed to recover native plant vigor, reduce invasive plant populations and improve wildlife habitat in grasslands and areas, much of which burned in the fires of 2000. Over half of the treatment also will complement similar invasive weed control work that is occurring on adjacent private land and State lands along the Forest Boundary. Actual helicopter time needed to treat the areas is estimated at two to three days. Antler hunters and recreationists are encouraged to consider alternate locations on the days the helicopter will be flying.

Those needing more information about the aerial spraying project should call Gil Gale or Diane Bessler-Hackett at 821-3201

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